

Wood Duck Whistler

December 2023

President's Message by Wanda Rauscher



Ah December, time to wrap up a year and start planning for the next one!

For those just shy of certification hours allow me to suggest:

AT: The TMN Tuesdays are the only programs that can be watched NOT LIVE for AT credit. Also, the program viewed must be one of the 2023 presentations and you cannot claim credit for multiple viewings of the same program! [TMN Tuesdays](#)

VSH: 1) Project FeederWatch is a great VSH approved citizen science program that can also help you de-stress!

2) Participate in one of the Northeast Texas Field Ornithologists Christmas bird counts. See Eblast for Mark's contact information.

NETFO-Sponsored Christmas Bird Counts. The proposed dates for this year's Christmas Bird Counts are given below. As always, CBCs are open to birders of all ages and birding ability. Please let Mark Edmund know if you are interested in participating in any or all of

the NETFO-sponsored CBCs. (Approved for VSH by East Texas Chapter TMN)

Saturday December 16 - Longview CBC
Saturday December 30 - Lake O' the Pines CBC
Tenaha (Lake Murval) CBC -- NETFO expects to hold the CBC sometime during the week of Monday Jan 1 to Friday Jan 5. The exact day/date will be set later. SEE PAGE 8 FOR MORE INFO.

3) If you are going to be out of the area but still in Texas, you can look for one of the Audubon counts to join- but you have to ask the organizer of the specific count! Go to the National Audubon web site and search Christmas Bird Count. They have a map which shows which groups still have room for more volunteers- [Christmas Bird Count Volunteers](#)

4) Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) - Purchase an approved rain gauge: [CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge](#) open an account and send in daily reports (even 0's count) of rainfall, snow, and hail. Data is used by the National Weather Service and NOAA.

5) Write an article for an upcoming newsletter.

2024 - There's an eclipse happening. It will be April 8 and weather permitting Tyler State Park and Purtil Creek State Park will both be in the path of totality! The eclipse will start about 12:24 p.m. with totality about 1:44 (lasting only 4 minutes max.) and eclipse ends just after 3. Not sure if the parks will ask for our help or not. Stay tuned! And just how rare is a total eclipse? Well, there can be 2 to 5 per year somewhere on planet earth BUT if you ask how many happen in a given spot odds are once every 375 years- so a total eclipse in a given place is a once in a lifetime type event! NASA has a catalog of future eclipses online. The next total eclipse anywhere near us will go through Oklahoma on August 12, 2045.

It is official East Texas Chapter TMN will be once more participating in City Nature Challenge!

Territory is our chapter catchment- Smith County and the 9 counties surrounding Smith. Count days will be April 26-29, 2024 with identifications to be made April 30- May 5. Here is what I want to see happen:

1) Involve our neighbors- get non-master naturalist folks involved in observing our flora & fauna. We care about what we know- so let's help our neighbors learn! I would love to have chapter members plan to host bioblitzes/ nature walk blitzes at area parks and nature centers both before the count days and during the count period.

2) Plan such that our members are making observations in every county of the catchment during the observation days.

3) Make a plan to seek out "Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Texas" In 2022 there were 17 such observations and in 2023 there were 15. Let's go looking and see if we can increase the number of observations from this list!

I hope that every member will find a way to participate in this project!!!

Enjoy your winter holidays!

When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world. - John Muir

Did you know that blue highlighted words in the articles are generally clickable links to a website, Facebook or Instagram?

Member Spotlight

Ann Reynolds

Let's welcome the newest member to Texas Parks and Wildlife Nature Trackers program, biologist and Texas Master Naturalist, Wendy Anderson!



Where were you born/raised

I was born in California but I lived mostly in Texas. I've lived in California, Dallas, Connecticut, and eventually graduated high school from Austin.

Where do you live now?

I live in Austin, Texas now!

Would you care to share with us about your family?

My husband Andy and I have 3 giant dogs and a cat! We have one energetic black lab named Pepper, an enormous fluffy Great Pyrenees named Honey, and a one-eyed Great Pyrenees mix named Rosie. If I ever give a virtual class from my home office, they may join as guest speakers.

What is/was your career? Education?

I am a Texas Nature Tracker Biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife!

I went to Indiana University for undergraduate and graduate school. My undergraduate majors were Biology and Spanish, and I have

two master's degrees: MSc. Environmental Science, and Masters of Public Affairs.

My background before TPWD included managing a few research labs (grassland restoration, crayfish and fish ecology), research (Dung Beetle evolutionary ecology, disease ecology in Dark Eyed Juncos, plant-soil feedback in invasive species), grassland birds and plants, and hardwood forest conservation with The Nature Conservancy.

What are some of your hobbies?

Like most naturalists, I find great joy in spending time outdoors. I love to hike with my dogs, garden, forage wild edibles, kayak, camp, bird, and use iNaturalist.

Outside of my nature-based hobbies, I enjoy painting, costuming to raise money for charity, sewing, reading fantasy and science fiction books, and running.

What do you attribute your love of nature?

It's not hard to fall in love and be in complete awe when spending time in nature, but my mom was always a big birder. She showed me how delightful birds are!

What was it that interested you in the Texas Parks and Wildlife?

When I was in 4th grade, we were assigned a science project on an animal, and I chose the peregrine falcon! I went to the library and read everything about this bird that I could, and my favorite book was published by TPWD. I feel so lucky working in the program that produced the material that inspired me so long ago.

Favorite nature activity?

Every moment spent in nature is a delight, but what really fills my heart with joy is walking through a native, healthy grassland while the sun rises or sets. Hearing meadowlarks singing with the beautiful reds and oranges in the sky while the bluegrass dances in the wind is my happy place.

Describe what would be your perfect, bucket-list natural science encounter or experience.

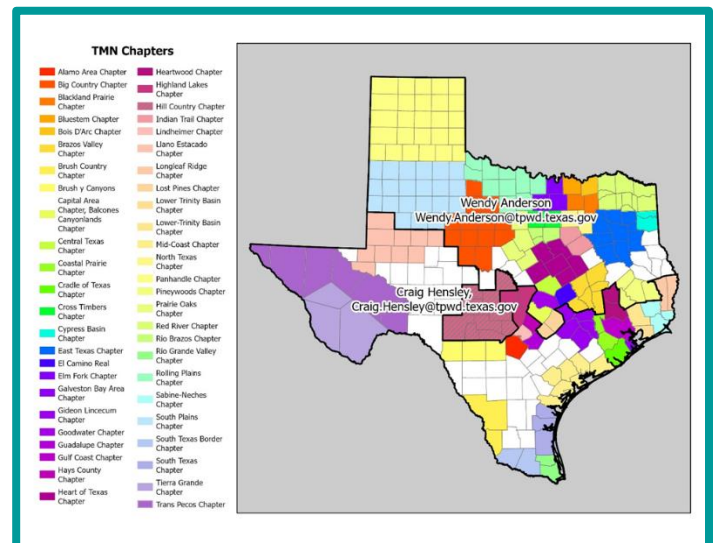
All year I have wanted to see wild pitcher plants here in Texas. I know exactly where they are, but I haven't yet made the journey out to see them!

Advice for new master naturalists?

Find your favorite wild places, and offer your expertise to protect those spaces – lead hikes, organize trash clean ups, offer educational experiences to families, photograph and share stories on social media.... Anything! You have a real, tangible, positive effect on the world.

Mary Pearl Meuth, Assistant State Coordinator of the Texas Master Naturalist Program says Wendy is eager to connect with all of us and share her knowledge and experiences. You can reach out to her at:

Wendy.Anderson@tpwd.texas.gov with any questions, project ideas, or collaborative opportunities you might have. Wendy will also be active on our social media platforms, so be sure to follow the Texas Nature Trackers on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay updated on their work, insights, and events. Craig Hensley and Wendy have loosely divided the state in half – Wendy will be taking the northern half of Texas, and Craig will be covering the southern half of Texas (with the exception that they will both work with the Hill Country Chapter).



Tyler Nature Center Update

Kay Jenkins

I worked alone on the November 4th workday and transplanted 10 dwarf wax myrtles and planted 10 Texas lantana in the front bed near the restrooms. I saw more butterflies and species of butterflies than I have ever seen, monarchs, queens, swallowtails, buckeyes, Gulf Fritillaries and others I didn't know.



Please join us for the upcoming workday **December 9 at 9:00 am**. Please RSVP to Kay so she can plan the work around the number of volunteers. Her email is: kay-jenkins@sbcglobal.net.

Bring the following:

- Gloves, hat, sunscreen and water to drink
- Knee pads or kneeling pad or towel to kneel on
- Shovel, rake, pruners, loppers, hoe
- 5-gallon bucket
- Pruners



Garner State Park

Dear Texas State Parks Supporter,

Ballots have been tallied and voters have made it clear—state parks matter to the people of Texas! Proposition 14, which creates the [Centennial Parks Conservation Fund](#), passed with overwhelming support from Texas voters.

"The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission extends its deepest gratitude to the people of Texas for voting to approve Proposition 14, which invests in the future extension of the state parks system," said Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Chairman Jeffery D. Hildebrand. "The passing of this amendment allows the department to make significant strides towards building out a best-in-class system of state-managed parks for future generations of Texans to enjoy."

"Today marks the beginning of a new chapter for Texas State Parks thanks to the unwavering support from the Texans who voted to adopt Proposition 14," said David Yoskowitz, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "This historic vote confirms the value Texans place on conserving outdoor spaces for the enjoyment of all Texans."

The fund is made from a portion of state budget surplus, and it creates a dedicated funding stream for acquiring and developing state parks. For more information about the passage of Proposition 14, see our press release [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Commission Thank Texans for Approving Prop 14](#).

We look forward to the next 100 Years of Texas State Parks!

Woodies and Hoodies

Sharon Hanzik

"Woodies" and "Hoodies" are the nicknames given to two of North America's most secretive waterfowl species, Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. The inspiration for this article arose from recent sightings of the former on a wooded pond on the property where I currently reside.

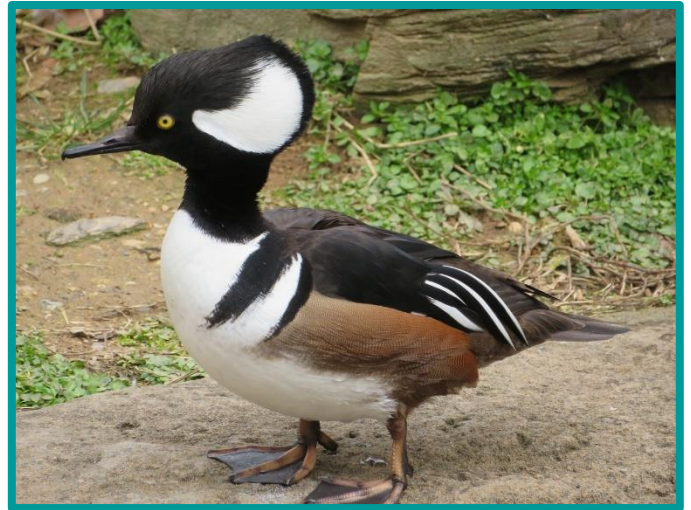
Catching a glimpse of either is always a treat as they seldom tolerate the presence of humans. In addition to their reclusive tendencies, they both prefer the seclusion of heavily wooded wetlands such as swamps and slow-moving, tree-lined streams. They are both cavity nesters. And both males of each species are quite striking in appearance. That, for the most part, is where their similarities end.

The Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa* - "bride" or "spouse" being the closest translation I can find) is a year-round resident in most areas of the US. On the other hand, the Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus* - "crested or hooded diver") also found in much of the US, is a migratory species during Texas' winter months.



The diet of Wood Ducks is mostly vegetarian with the occasional partaking of insects and other arthropods. Hooded Mergansers are predominantly carnivorous with much of their

diet consisting of fish and amphibians. Plants make up only a small portion of their normal diet. Thus, we compare not only their beaks but their leg placement on their bodies. Wood Ducks have the usual wider, thick bill designed for filtering water from vegetation. Hooded



Mergansers, along with their relative, the Common Merganser, have a more narrow, serrated bill designed to close quickly under water and hold on to slippery prey. Leg placement on the body determines whether a duck is a dabbler or a diver. Can you guess which is which? Dabblers, such as Wood Ducks, have leg placement in the middle of their bodies. They simply paddle around on the surface collecting plant life and insects. This placement of the legs allows for good balance on land. Divers, such as Hooded Mergansers have leg placement near the rear of their bodies. This allows for pushing their bodies completely underwater to catch submerged prey. As you can deduce, this placement makes them a bit awkward on land. They are seldom found traversing far from water. Also, dabbling ducks tend to sit high in the water, while divers sit low.

Although they are both cavity nesters, Hoodies produce only one clutch per year while Wood Ducks can produce two. The number of eggs is approximately the same at an average of twelve. However, surveyed Wood Duck nests have consisted of as many as 30 eggs! This was discovered to be due to the practice of "egg dumping". This term refers to females that will

lay eggs in other occupied nests, shirking their motherly duties.

In the Spring, we say goodbye to the Mergansers and other migratory waterfowl but we can enjoy watching wood ducks all year long (if we are vewwy, vewwy quiet). I encourage you to get out and observe them all this winter season. We are fortunate enough to be able to easily identify each species as males are adorned in their full breeding plumage with only a few species exhibiting almost identical markings. Their antics are also quite entertaining, just like watching kids on a playground. Happy "hunting"!

-All About Birds

-National Audubon Society

Wait! What?

Lance Homeniuk - Population Density. The number of people on the trail decreases with the square of the distance from the trailhead and with the cube of the elevation gained. (example: 100 people at the parking lot at Guadalupe Peak = 10 hikers a mile down the trail and 4 climbers at the summit).

Never feel alone. Setting aside external and internal parasites and disease-causing organisms that individuals may host, the average human's body is home to commensal (harmless) and mutualistic (helpful/essential) organisms. The skin is inhabited by 2 or 3 species of follicle mites, up to 1000 species of bacteria, several species of fungi, and unknown numbers of viruses. The digestive tract may house another 500-1000 species of bacteria. Total population for a 155 lb. person ... 39 trillion individuals, plus 1.

Ann Reynolds -Fresh snow absorbs sound, lowering ambient noise over a landscape because the trapped air between snowflakes attenuates vibration. That is why it get so quiet when it snows.

The Volcano Snail, *Chrysomallon squamiferum*, also called the scaly-foot gastropod, scaly-foot

snail, or the sea pangolin, is a real creature. It lives in deep-sea hydrothermal vents, in the Indian Ocean. The volcano snail can withstand temperatures of up to 750 degrees Fahrenheit. Its shell has three layers: the outer layer is made of iron sulfides, making it the only known extant creature that incorporates such substances into its skeleton (it can be picked up by a magnet). The middle layer is standard gastropod fair, composed of an organic substance called periostracum. Finally, the innermost layer is made of aragonite, a carbonate mineral that can also be considered a gemstone. Volcano snails do not have eyes or tentacles but has hundreds of pieces of iron attached to its foot called sclerites. Their actual function is unknown. Thanks to a symbiotic relationship with bacteria in its digestive system, the volcano snail doesn't need to eat- the bacteria provide the snail with energy in exchange for being able to live in the snail's body. Another cool biology fact about the volcano snail is the size of its heart, as it represents 4% of its body volume, which is rather big for such a small animal. Its heart is so big to ensure that both it and its bacteria friends get enough oxygen in the low-oxygen environment of the deep sea.

Dale Wade - Turkey droppings tell a bird's sex and age. Male droppings are j-shaped; female droppings are spiral-shaped. The larger the diameter, the older the bird.

Master Naturalists at the Longview Arboretum

Mark Edmund

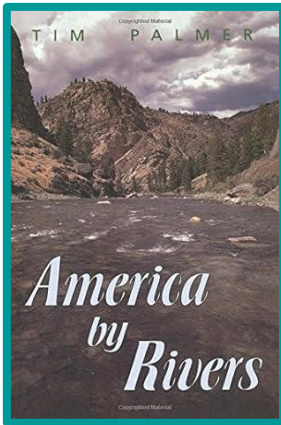


Saturday November 4 was the 4th birthday for the Longview Arboretum. The arboretum celebrated by hosting a Tree Festival with a variety of activities for children and adults. ETCMN member Mark Edmund taught birding classes that focused on birds seen in East Texas throughout the year.

Book Reviews

Lance Homeniuk

America by Rivers by Tim Palmer, 1996. Published by Island Press, Washington, DC. Paperback, 336 pages.

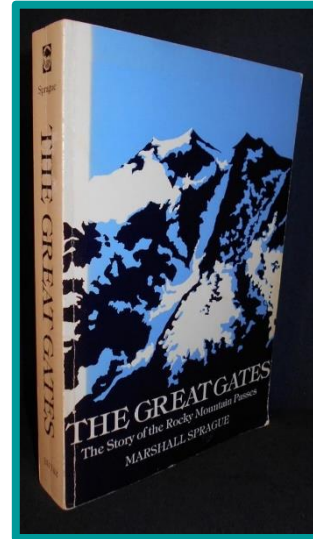


"So perfect was the match and so gentle was the intersection of the elements that the horizon line evaporated in merging light; the river, the sea, and the sky were all in one piece." So wrote Tim Palmer on reaching the mouth of the Suwannee River by canoe. It reads almost like a line from Norman Maclean's lyrical "A River Runs Through It". But then there is the Rio Grande, a tale of damming, diversion, pollution, and heartache, Orwellian rather than Maclean.

The Suwannee (Swanee to music buffs) was but one of about 240 rivers paddled or rafted by the author in North America. His collection features ten of them, one from each US river region he has identified (map on page 13). He discusses the defining features of each region: precipitation, landforms, vegetation; and the physical characteristics of each river: volume, length, watershed, tributaries. Maps, B&W photos and appendices enlarge on this data. But I was most taken by his descriptions

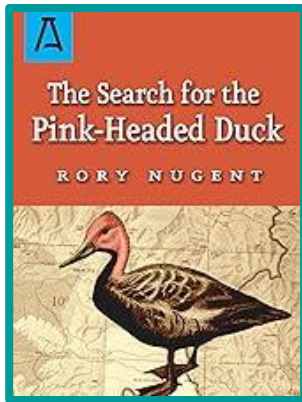
of both the natural scenery and even the historical (and current*) use and abuse by us. *No pun intended. Or, if it is as perfect a pun as it now seems I will take credit after all.

The Great Gates by Marshall Sprague, 1964. Published by University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, NB. Paperback, 468 pages.



There is a kind of thrill one experiences as the road climbs and one nears the crest and the signpost comes into view. It may say "Continental Divide" or "Summit" or "Logan Pass, elevation 6,646 feet". Can you name three major highway passes through the Rocky Mountains? How about just one? No, you cannot use the pass on the Going to the Sun Road in Glacier National Park I just gave you. Sprague gives us 21 chapters and a roster of about 800 passes. They stretch from New Mexico to Northern British Columbia, with stories spanning from the 16th century to 1964. So, not much mention of modern highways, no GPS coordinates, few paved roads, but a fascinating historical record nonetheless. Some B&W photos, two large scale maps in the front pages. This makes for a great dip and peruse book.

The Search for the Pink Headed Duck: A Journey into the Himalayas and Down the Brahmaputra by Rory Nugent, 1991. Published by Houghton, Mifflin company, Boston, MA Paperback, 222 pages.



"The five of us were talking about lost treasures that night, sitting around trading stories. What's still out there to find? ... 'One of us should go after the pink-headed duck. It hasn't been sighted in years. Extremely rare... the most elusive bird in the world.'"

So, it begins. What follows is a rambling travelogue across northern India that reads more like a Bill Bryson or Jack Kerouac book than anything else. Definitely not ornithological, scientific, nature and wildlife writing. Spoiler alert – no pink headed-duck, but an unreliable possible long-distance sighting of a white-winged wood duck. Mildly interesting narrative of walking, riding and paddling through Sikkim and Assam; meeting Ghurka freedom fighters, "Bongs", various Buddhists, Moslems and Hindu holy men, river pirates, smugglers, and bureaucrats; visits to famous cities, temples and parks I had never heard of before. Am I guilty of damning with faint praise? Mea culpa.

Late-breaking news – 1. Nugent also searched for, and wrote about the Mokele-mbembe {brontosaurus} in the Congo, providing the same level of evidence for it. 2. The internet has pictures of the P-HD but they are all of a taxidermy-mounted specimen, sometimes posed in front of a natural looking background (but the base is visible).

Christmas Bird Count – LAST CALL

Ann Reynolds

Yes, it is that time of year again! Time to form

your Christmas bird count group. Contact these folks if you are interested:

The **Tyler Audubon** welcomes anyone interested in joining the annual Christmas bird count on Dec. 30, 2023. If you are interested in helping Tyler Audubon, contact Jessica Coleman at jcoleman@uttyler.edu about your interest in joining a team. When you email about your interest please put in the title "Christmas Bird Count", and include contact information in your email. You will be paired with a team to visit various habitats and birding spots, counting every bird you see. All levels of birders are welcome to join, and all you need to bring is a pair of binoculars and weather-appropriate clothes.

The **NETFO** Christmas Bird Counts will be headed up by Mark Edmund. Contact Mark Edmund at maedmund321@gmail.com. We always welcome birders of all ages and experience levels to participate. The more eyes on the skies (and trees) means a better CBC.

Longview Christmas Bird Count - Saturday December 16.

Lake O' the Pines Christmas Bird Count - Saturday December 30

Tenaha (Lake Murval) CBC - the CBC will be held sometime week of January 1 through January 5. Exact day will be set at a later time.

Or, form your own group and count!

Creature Feature

Lindsey Smith



Roseate Skimmer
Male [Orthemis
ferruginea]_0460

New Bee (for our catchment)!

Wanda Rauscher



When you look closely there are surprises waiting! Kari Steph made a discovery during the October Texas Pollinator Bioblitz. She documented *Epeolus howardi* in Smith County at two locations. The only other iNaturalist Texas sighting of this bee was last year in Cleburne, TX. The species has been documented in Louisiana five times- all in Vivian, Louisiana. Kari posted the great photos and put the bee in its correct tribe, Lindsey Smith suggested *Epeolus scutellaris* and then Thomas Onuferko, a hymenopterist (the insect order that includes sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants) specialist and research associate at the Canadian Museum of Nature, made the *Epeolus howardi* identification. Dr. Onuferko wrote the 2018 update on genus *Epeolus*. World renowned bee and wasp expert Dr. John S. Ascher confirmed the identification.

Epeolus howardi is a rare bee. There are only 8 records in iNaturalist. Sam Droege, Wildlife Biologist at the USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center in Laurel, MD, says this species has been collected only a handful of times in the Mid-Atlantic states (& not posted to iNaturalist). The only common factor has been that the sites are very sandy. Sam says "more people looking is what we need". Sam is developing an inventory and monitoring program for native bees and working on the online identification guides for North American bees at discoverlife.org.

When you see an *Epeolus* you might wonder if you are looking at a wasp. The bee has no pollen collecting hairs (scopa) on its back legs or belly. There are no hairs because this bee does not gather pollen for its future progeny but rather watches for a female *Colletes* bee to leave her nest then sneaks in to lay an egg in that nest. It is thought that the *Colletes* species parasitized by *Epeolus howardi* is *Colletes howardi* but that still needs additional study.

So, in areas where you identify *Colletes* watch for *Epeolus* species. And how do you recognize a *Colletes*?

- Angled eyes (not parallel) that give the face a heart shaped appearance
- Tongues that are flat, short, broad, and split at the tip
- Wings with 3 submarginal cells with second and third cells almost the same size
- Same size as a honey bee
- Dramatic black and white banding on the abdomen

Try to get good photographs of face, side view of body, and a shot with the wing in focus!

Colletes are fascinating in that they make a biodegradable bioplastic liner (chemically it is a polyester) for the cells in their nests. Unlike many other ground nesters, *Colletes* do not leave dry pollen balls or cubes but rather a soupy mixture in the bottom of the cell for their offspring. They deposit the egg in the side of the plastic liner above the level of the food.

- * Onuferko TM (2018) A revision of the cleptoparasitic bee genus *Epeolus* Latreille for Nearctic species, north of Mexico (Hymenoptera, Apidae). *ZooKeys* 755: 1-185. <https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.755.23939>



East Texas Chapter TMN Holiday Gathering

- From Hospitality: We look forward to gathering at the Annual ETCMN Holiday Party and Celebration.
- Please join us with your spouse or significant other on Saturday, December 2 at the Tyler Nature Center Tyler, Tx from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- The entree of smoked turkey and brisket , and drinks will be provided. Please prepare your favorite salad, vegetable side dish or dessert. We typically are heavy on the desserts so would like a variety of healthy sides. Please type up your recipe to post with your contribution. This allows everyone to photograph and make your recipe in the future and also helps those with food allergies.
- While out and about look for a fun gift item (\$15.00 range) related to nature for a white elephant gift exchange. This is always the highlight of the party. It could be a cool gadget for outdoors, a nice nature related book, yard art, knickknack made from natural ingredients. The possibilities are endless. Be creative! You want your contribution to be the gift that everyone steals. Make sure to bring a gift for any guest attending. We want everyone to join in the gift exchange.
- We will be celebrating all the accomplishments of our chapter as well as voting on our nominees for next year officers and will also accept nominations from the floor with the consent of the nominee.
- Please RSVP right away to Wanda Rauscher at wwrauscher@gmail.com and Caryn Vorsas @ carynvorsas@gmail.com. The deadline is Friday, November 24. We need numbers for the food and drink count.
- We look forward to seeing each and everyone of you!





And Instagram:

- [TMN Instagram](#)

We are thankful and grateful for you!

Michelle and Mary Pearl

Dear Texas Master Naturalists,

Continuing our Season of Thanks!

The Texas Master Naturalist Program is wrapping up its 25th anniversary year and to celebrate, we're launching our "Season of Thanks". Over the remainder of the year, we're continuing to highlight TMN volunteer projects, service and accomplishments to close out 2023. We're inviting you to interact with our social media posts and share with us what you are most thankful for!

Keeping the Giving Thanks going... - we are forever thankful for you and the service you provide as Master Naturalists! The TMN Program has become an active conservation force across Texas for 25 years thanks to its passionate corps of members. Some impressive numbers from the past 25 years:

-To date, the Texas Master Naturalists have improved or stewarded **3,010 miles of trails** in their ecoregion and community.

-Master Naturalists have served over **6,787,000 service hours** in natural resource conservation, education or stewardship since the program's inception.

-And over **6,628,000 Texans** have interacted with the conservation mission of the Texas Master Naturalist members, chapters and mission.

Check out the Season of Thanks posts on our Facebook page:

- [TMN Facebook](#)



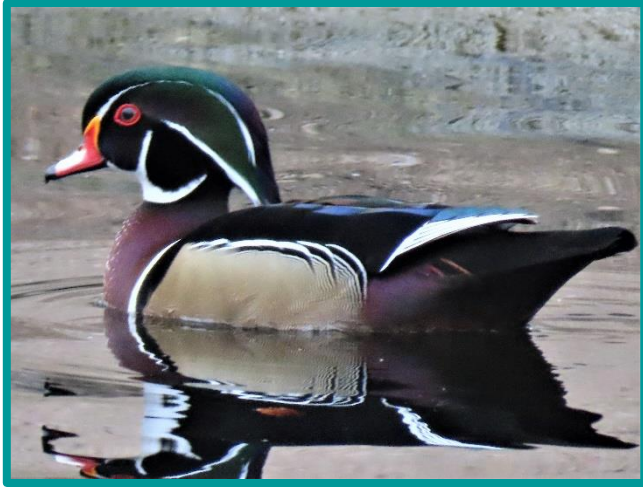


Photo courtesy Ann Reynolds

If you are interested in learning more about the business side of the chapter, all ETCMN members are invited to attend the quarterly chapter Board meetings. You can also access the Board meeting minutes on the chapter website under Members Only section, select Board of Directors and enter the current password.

The Wood Duck Whistler is a monthly publication of East Texas Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. News, essays, comments, and ideas are welcome. Please email them to Ann Reynolds at ann@etex.net.

Photos for Book Reviews are courtesy of Amazon. Unless otherwise noted, all other photos belong to the author of the article.

Upcoming Events

December 2 11-2 - Tyler Nature Center
EAST TEXAS CHAPTER TMN HOLIDAY PARTY – see eBlast for details

December 9, 9:00 am - Wildscape Work Day, Tyler Nature Center, RSVP Kay Jenkins

December 12, noon TMN Tuesday – “Land Stewardship – It Might Not Be What You Think” by Steve Nelle

December 20 articles for the chapter newsletter due to Ann Reynolds
Reynolds.ann1@gmail.com

November 1-April 30 – Project Feeder Watch
<https://feederwatch.org/about/detailed-instructions>

IN THE COMMUNITY

NETFO – 1st Wednesday 6:30 pm, Alethea SS Classroom at Greggton UMC (1101 Pine Tree Road) in Longview.

Tyler Audubon Society, 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Education Room, 3232 Jan Avenue.

NPSOT-Longview – 4th Thursday, 2:00 pm

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Longview - contact Mark Edmund
maedmund321@gmail.com

Longview Saturday December 16.

Lake O' the Pines Saturday December 30

Tenaha (Lake Murval) will be held sometime week of January 1 through January 5. Exact day will be set at a later time

Tyler – December 3 contact Jessica Coleman
jcoleman@uttyler.edu



WHERE YOU CAN FIND US

You can find East Texas Chapter Master Naturalists here:

<https://txmn.org/etwd/>

<https://www.facebook.com/EastTexasMasterNaturalist/>

<https://www.instagram.com/easttexasmasternaturalist/>



<https://tpwd.texas.gov/>

Texas Master Naturalist – East Texas Chapter Monthly Chapter meetings are held the **fourth Thursday of the month at the Tyler Nature Center, 11942 FM 848, Tyler, TX 75707**. Meet and greet 6:45 pm; meeting at 7:00 pm.

Everyone is welcome.

Safety Guidelines from TMN: Safety is our guiding principle. Follow all federal, state and county guidelines for TMN activities. Virtual platforms are useful and should remain an important consideration for planning meetings and events. Masks and social distancing considerations are encouraged. (July 2021)

ETCMN CHAPTER ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

****President: 2022-2023** Wanda Rauscher

****Vice President: 2023-2024** Cindy Smith

Hospitality Co-Chairs: 2023 Caryn Vorsas, Joe Vorsas; Bonnie Edwards

****Secretary: 2023-2024** Carol Lanthrum

Historian/Archivist: TBD

- ****Treasurer:** Interim Robert Lumpkins

Immediate Past President: 2022-2023 Paul Wick

DIRECTORS:

Advanced Training (AT): Lead - Beverly Guthrie with Amy Cumbie and Cindy Smith

Volunteer Service Projects (VSH): Lead – Dawn Bahr with Lance Homeniuk and Greg Marshall

Community Education/Outreach: Lance Homeniuk

Speakers Bureau: Greg Marshall

Diversity and Inclusion: TBD

Training Class 2024: TBD

Membership: Wanda Rauscher

Volunteer Management System Director: Lindsey Smith

Communications Support:

E-Blast: Wanda Rauscher

Newsletter: Ann Reynolds

Photography: Lindsey Smith

Public Relations: TBD

Social Media: Lead - Greg Marshall, Dawn Bahr and Julie Davis

Website: Dale Wade

State Representative: Wanda Rauscher or appointed alternative

2023 Class Representatives: Natalie Curley

Chapter Advisors:

Clint Perkins – A&M Agrilife Extension Agent-Smith County

Boyd Sanders – TPWD Advisor

**** = Officers & Executive Board Members**

Revised 9/30/23